
6.3 Cultural Resources

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The DOE Richland Operations Office established a cultural resource program in 1987 that has been managed by the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory as part of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Chatters 1989). Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Bechtel Hanford, Inc., and CH2M Hill provided support for the cultural resource program on the Hanford Site throughout 1996. Westinghouse Hanford Company provided support for that portion of the program involving the built environment (buildings and structures) during fiscal year 1996. As a result, the management of archaeological, historical, and traditional cultural resources of the Hanford Site is provided in a manner consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Native American Involvement

Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Yakama Indian Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, and Wanapum Band were actively involved in the cultural resource program during 1996. Monthly cultural resource issues meetings provided a venue for the exchange of information between DOE, tribal staff members, and site contractors about projects and activities on the Hanford Site.

A traditional cultural resources workshop held in July 1996 provided a forum for tribal elders of the Yakama, Wanapum, and Nez Perce Tribes to express their views on the management of Hanford's traditional cultural properties.

Public Involvement

The cultural resources staff of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Bechtel Hanford, Inc., CH2M Hill, and

Westinghouse Hanford Company assisted DOE in organizing and conducting two public meetings for the purpose of reviewing the cultural resources program. During the meetings, the public was introduced to the primary types of cultural and historic resources found on the Hanford Site, the program's legal and regulatory framework, and its mission and responsibilities. The public meetings provided participants an opportunity to discuss and make recommendations concerning the final contents of programmatic documents and future public involvement in the program.

Section 106 Activities

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, cultural resource reviews must be conducted before each proposed ground disturbance or building alteration/demolition project on the Hanford Site can take place. Cultural resource reviews are required to evaluate the effect the proposed project may have on any property that may be eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

During 1996, 271 cultural resource reviews were requested, 9 of which required archaeological surveys, 1 required test excavation, and 33 involved building modification or demolition (Figure 6.3.1). The surveys covered a total of 0.25 km² (0.09 mi²) and resulted in the discovery of one isolated find and additional information about three previously recorded archaeological sites (Figure 6.3.2).

Section 110 Activities

Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies undertake a program to identify, evaluate, and nominate historic properties and consider the use and reuse of historic properties. Agencies are also required to maintain and manage historic

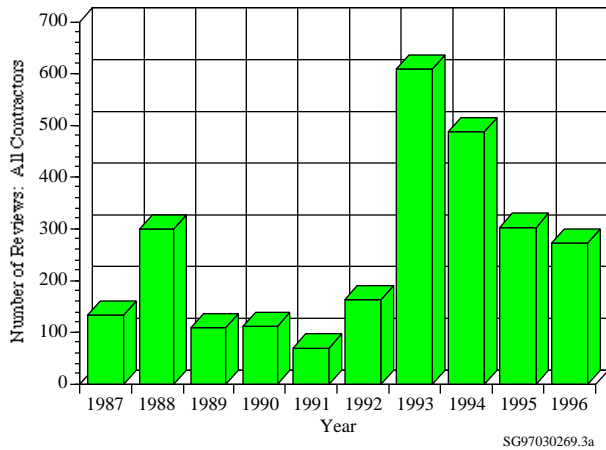


Figure 6.3.1. Cultural Resource Reviews Requested Each Calendar Year



Figure 6.3.2. Historic Sites are Common Across the Hanford Site

properties in a way that considers preservation of their values and ensure that preservation-related activities are completed in consultation with other agencies, Indian tribes, and the general public.

Management activities conducted to fulfill Section 110 requirements included finalization of the programmatic agreement for the built environment, creation of the Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District (Figure 6.3.3), and completion of a Multiple Property Documentation form to assist with evaluation of historic properties for listing in the National Register of

Historic Places. Approximately 450 buildings/structures have been documented on historic property inventory forms and are on file at the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory (Figure 6.3.4). One Historic American Engineering Record document and a historic overview of the significant N Reactor complex was finalized.

Historic District

During 1996, a programmatic agreement that addresses management of the built environment constructed during the Manhattan Project and Cold War periods was completed and accepted by DOE, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer. To ensure that the measures of the programmatic agreement were carried out, DOE established a Historic Buildings Task Group to identify, inventory, and evaluate all buildings/structures not evaluated previously for National Register eligibility. The task group was composed of individuals who possessed knowledge, background information, and skills directly related to the built environment of the Hanford Site.

Using National Register criteria as well as historic contexts and themes associated with nuclear technology, energy production, and human health and environmental protection, the task group identified a Register-eligible Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District. The district served to organize and delineate the evaluation and mitigation of Hanford's built environment. The identification and evaluation process resulted in the selection of approximately 185 buildings, structures, and complexes as contributing properties within the historic district recommended for mitigation. Mitigation consists of site forms that document buildings and structures identified as the most representative samples of property types that exemplify the history of the Manhattan Project and Cold War periods on the Hanford Site. Three levels of mitigation have been selected. Historic American Engineering Record documents will be written for three facilities (B Reactor, T Plant, and 313 Metal Fuels Fabrication Facility) that represent key plutonium production processes and were the first of their kind in the world. Expanded historic property inventory forms will be written for those properties (41 in all) that capture or represent critical processes or events at Hanford whose contributions cannot be summarized on the standard site form. Standard historic property inventory forms will be prepared for the remainder of the buildings and structures in the historic district.



Figure 6.3.3. 105-C Reactor, One of Several Structures Included in the Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District

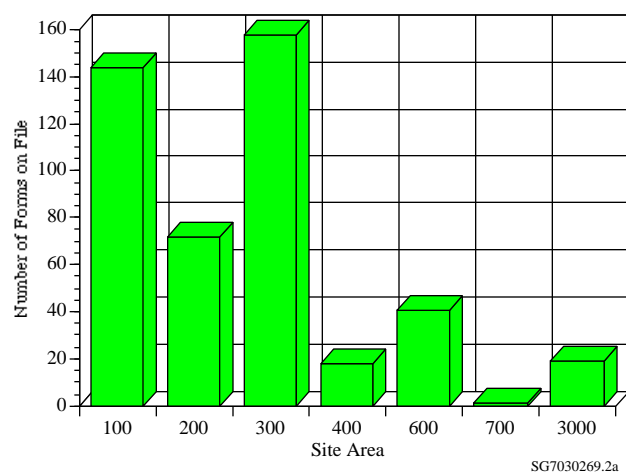


Figure 6.3.4. Hanford Buildings Documented with a Washington State Historic Property Inventory Form

Approximately 900 buildings and structures were identified as either contributing properties not selected for mitigation or as noncontributing buildings and structures and will be documented in a database maintained by DOE. According to the programmatic agreement, certain property types such as mobile trailers, modular buildings, storage tanks, towers, wells, and structures with minimal or no visible surface manifestations were exempt from the identification and evaluation requirement.

National Register Multiple Property Documentation Historic properties are those cultural resources worthy of preservation that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To assist with the evaluation of potential historic properties, five historic contexts were completed as part of the National Register Multiple Property Documentation process. These

contexts are being used to determine National Register eligibility for sites and buildings on the Hanford Site associated with the prehistoric period (18,000 B.C. - 1805 A.D.), the contact period between early explorers and native peoples (Lewis and Clark 1805 - Hanford Engineer Works 1943), the pre-1943 Euroamerican settlement period (Lewis and Clark 1805 - Hanford Engineer Works 1943), and the Manhattan Project/Cold War periods (1942-1990).

Monitoring

Locke Island contains some of the best preserved evidence of prehistoric village sites extant in the Columbia Basin and is included within the Locke Island National Register Archaeological District. Field monitoring of this large island was conducted during 1996 to evaluate a complex fluvial erosion problem exhibited along its northeastern shoreline. During 1996 approximately 41,000 m³ (53,628 yd³) of cutbank sediment and over 70 concentrations containing a variety of cultural materials and features were lost during the erosional process. Agency and management responsibilities associated with the protection of cultural resources on Locke Island were also explored.

Education and Research

Educational activities associated with the cultural resources program included presenting lectures to groups ranging from public school classrooms to civic groups, colleges, and professional societies. The annual Aboriginal Lifeways, Prehistoric Artifact Recognition and Documentation Certification training sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation included two classes conducted by Bechtel Hanford, Inc. and CH2M Hill staff. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory participated in the Associated Western Universities, Inc., Northwest Division and the Student Research Apprenticeship Programs by hosting two student interns who were involved in field and laboratory work with Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory staff.

Research activities conducted by student interns and Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory staff were continued as part of compliance work. Research in the field of archaeology and history focused on several general areas of interest: archaeological site preservation and protection, the pre-1943 resettlement of the Hanford Site, and the built environment of the Manhattan Project and the Cold War periods.